AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A wireless communication device comprising:

a transceiver operative to communicate in a push-to-talk mode;

a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and to recognize predetermined voice commands; and

a controller configured to:

activate the push-to-talk mode in the wireless communications device responsive to the predetermined voice commands; and

key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands while the wireless communications device is in the push-to-talk mode to begin transmission of the speech signals; and

un-key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands while the wireless communications device is in the push-to-talk mode to end transmission of the speech signals.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said controller is further configured to un-key the transceiver to stop transmission of said speech signals responsive to the expiration of a timer.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said controller is further configured to activate and deactivate a listening mode for said speech processor responsive to menu commands input by a user.

7. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said speech processor further includes a voice activity detector connected to said voice recognition engine to detect said speech signals.

8. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 7 wherein said voice activity detector further detects periods of speech inactivity.

9. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 8 wherein said transmitter transmits comfort noise responsive to said detected periods of speech inactivity.

10. (Previously Presented) The wireless communications device of claim 8 wherein said controller is further configured to re-key said transceiver to resume transmission of said speech signals before the expiration of a speech inactivity timer.

11. (Previously Presented) The wireless communications device of claim 7 wherein said controller is further configured to re-key said transceiver to resume transmission of said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

12. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 7 wherein said speech processor further includes a speech encoder to encode said speech signals.

13. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 12 further comprising memory to store representations of said predetermined voice commands, and wherein said voice recognition engine compares said speech signals to said representations of said predetermined voice commands.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of communicating speech signals as packet data from a wireless communications device comprising:

detecting speech signals spoken by a user of the wireless communications device;

recognizing predetermined voice commands spoken by the user of the wireless communications device;

activating a push-to-talk mode in a wireless communications device responsive to the predetermined voice commands;

keying a transmitter while in the push-to-talk mode responsive to detecting the predetermined voice commands to begin transmission of said speech signals; and

un-keying the transmitter while in the push-to-talk mode responsive to detecting the predetermined voice commands to end the transmission of said speech signals.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising deactivating said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising deactivating said push-to-talk mode responsive to the expiration of a timer.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising causing transmission of said speech signals responsive to periods of detected voice inactivity.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising re-keying the transmitter while in the push-to-talk mode responsive to detecting the predetermined voice commands to resume the transmission of said speech signals.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising activating and deactivating a listening mode responsive to one or more menu commands input by the user.

22. (Previously Presented) A wireless communications system comprising:

a base station; and

a wireless communications device comprising:

a transceiver operative to communicate in a push-to-talk mode;

a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and to recognize predetermined voice commands input by a user; and

a controller configured to:

activate the push-to-talk mode in the wireless communications device responsive to the predetermined voice commands; and

key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands while the wireless communications device is in the push-to-talk mode to begin transmission of the speech signals; and

un-key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands while the wireless communications device is in the push-to-talk mode to end transmission of the speech signals.

23. (Original) The wireless communications system of claim 22 wherein the wireless communications system comprises a packet-switched network.

24. (Original) The wireless communications system of claim 22 wherein the speech signals are transmitted as data packets.

25. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication device comprising:

a transceiver to communicate over a wireless communications network;

a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and to recognize predetermined voice commands; and

a controller operatively connected to said transceiver and said speech processor, and configured to:

identify a recipient of a prerecorded message responsive to the predetermined voice commands;

key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands to begin transmission of ~~the speech signals~~ the prerecorded message to the recipient; and

un-key the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands to end transmission of ~~the speech signals~~ the prerecorded message to the recipient.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) The wireless communications device of claim ~~26~~ 25 further comprising memory to store said prerecorded message.

28. (Currently Amended) The wireless communications device of claim ~~26~~ 25 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to activate a recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

29. (Original) The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to deactivate said recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

30. (Original) The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to pause said recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

31. (Original) The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to replay said prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Original) The wireless communications device of claim 32 wherein said recipient comprises an affinity group having one or more members.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating speech signals over a wireless communications device comprising:

detecting speech signals uttered by a user of the wireless communications device;

recognizing predetermined voice commands issued by the user of the wireless communications device;

recording said speech signals to create a prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands;

keying a transceiver in the wireless communications device responsive to the predetermined voice commands to begin transmission of the ~~speech signals~~ prerecorded message to an identified recipient; and

un-keying the transceiver responsive to the predetermined voice commands to end transmission of the ~~speech signals~~ prerecorded message to the identified recipient.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 36 further comprising saving said prerecorded message in memory responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 36 further comprising pausing said recording responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 36 further comprising replaying said prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~41~~ 36 wherein said recipient comprises an affinity group having one or more members.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein keying a transceiver in the wireless communications device responsive to the predetermined voice commands to begin transmission of the ~~speech signals~~ prerecorded message comprises keying the transceiver to transmit said ~~speech signals~~ prerecorded message as packet data responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.